

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT  
996 MAIN STREET  
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING  
March 17, 2016  
6:00 P.M.**

**Those present:** Board Members: Chairperson, Pasquale DeBernardo, Georgia Ure, Paul Schaarschmidt; Chief Justin Lee, District Clerk, Julie Kelley, Mr. William Day, Mr. Nick Iannone, and Mr. Ron Mochan.

**Those not present:** Board Members, Vice-Chairperson, Elwood Johnson, John Weeden

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairperson, Pasquale DeBernardo at 6:00 p.m.

This Special Workshop Meeting was held to review the Charter of the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District to review, discuss, and propose possible changes to the Charter.

A quorum at any meeting of the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District shall be twenty (20) eligible voters.

**Proposed amendments:**

- Any meeting with the exception of the Annual meeting or a Special meeting at the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District shall be open to the public with a quorum consisting of the majority of the Board of Directors is required to be present.
- During an Annual Meeting change from twenty (20) eligible voters to fifteen (15) eligible voters.

**Assessment Committee and Budget Committee**

**Proposed amendments:**

- The Chief submits the annual budget to the Board ninety (90) days prior for review by the Board.
- Strike Budget Committee.
- Assessment Committee consisting of the Board of Directors, whereas any problems should be addressed directly by the Board of Directors.

**Retirement of Chief**

**Proposed amendments:**

- Tie it in with the normal Social Security Retirement.
- The Chief is to serve at the Pleasure of the Board. A yearly review shall be performed for the Chief by the Board of Directors. (Keeping in mind that there is also an Employment agreement for the Chief).
- District Deputy Chief's shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Chief.

-Board of Engineers consists of Chief, Deputy Chief's and Captains. Lieutenants do not have recourse if they are having difficulty. It was discussed that this should be part of the policies not the Charter.

-2001 Section B, Deputy Chief's, Procedure for removal of District Officer No Article C in 10 its in # 11.

**Section 4 Article B**

- A yearly review will be performed for the Chief by the Board of Directors.
- District Deputy Chief shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Chief.
- Page 8 # D End of term should be Deputy Chief, Captain, Lieutenants, this should be deleted.

-Page 13, Blow the Building or blown up change to Demolish.

-Paragraph C Line 21 page 7 of 2001 Chief within District can go outside district may appoint a committee to go outside Captain and above of the district.

-Page 3 2001, Board of Directors may exempt from taxations i.e. Churches.

-References throughout the Alton Fire Station needs to be cleaned up.

-Any time there is an amendment it should be filed and should be one document. It was discussed that this is what they are currently working on. When all amendments are done, it should make it easier to read the Charter.

-The Date of the Chief's Retirement needs to be amended and be parallel with State laws.

-Page 5, 2001, Subsection E Line 20

Tax Collector shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, remove 1 year.

Treasurer shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, remove 1 year.

-Page 7, 2001, Line 3, Chief must be a resident of Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District and active fire member for 7 years. Like to add 1 more item, may serve as Chief at the Pleasure of the Board of Directors and may serve until age 72 years or 30 years.

Most other Fire Districts the Chief may serve until age 65 years.

-Page 8, 2001, Paragraph D

Deputy Chief's Letter shall not be up for appointment until they expire. This should be deleted or changed.

-Page 9, Paragraph 8

Majority of Board of Engineers present at Fire may order such building to be pulled down or blown up, what happens if there are more than 2 or 3 deputies, it goes with the Fire Marshall's Code.

-Page 4, 2001, Line 21, Chief, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Chief if Chief is unable to do the job or incapacitated for an extended period of time. Line 26, Add if 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy cannot do the position, then 2<sup>nd</sup>, then 3<sup>rd</sup>, then hire someone to fill the position.

These workshop meetings will continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month until further notice.

**Adjourn**

The workshop meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley  
District Clerk